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September 26, 2003

17497 U.S. PTO
10/670513
09/26/03

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of Jean STEINMETZ of Laxou, France;
Herve DERULE of Montoy Flanville, France
Emeryc VALOT of Viroflay, France
METHOD FOR TREATING METAL SURFACES BY CARBOXYLATION
Assignees: USINOR, ATOFINA
Our Ref: Q77594

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Continuation Application of International Application No. PCT/FR02/00988 filed March 21, 2002, of Jean STEINMETZ, Herve DERULE and Emeryc VALOT entitled METHOD FOR TREATING METAL SURFACES BY CARBOXYLATION.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims, 2 sheets of drawing (Figs. 1-4), a Preliminary Amendment and an Information Disclosure Statement, together with the International Search Report, English translation of the International Search Report, Form PTO/SB/08 A & B and copies of the cited references.

The executed Declaration and Power of Attorney and Assignment documents will be submitted at a later date with the required fees.

PLEASE NOTE: This application is being filed as a Continuation of International Application PCT/FR02/00988 pursuant to MPEP §§1895 and 1896.

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/FR02/00988, filed March 21, 2002 (in which the "U.S." is listed as a designated state) the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.



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Please see the attached PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT before calculating the filing fee.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total-claims	<u>20</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=	<u> </u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u> </u>	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=	<u> </u>	x	\$84.00	=	<u> </u>	\$0.00
Base Fee										\$750.00

TOTAL FILING FEE										<u>\$750.00</u>
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A check for the statutory fee of \$750.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

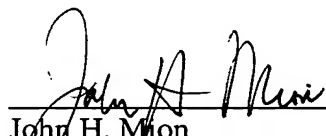
Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
France	0104064	March 27, 2001

The priority document will be filed at a later date.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 18,879

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Date: September 26, 2003